

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method for adding
information to image data, comprising:

5 subjecting the image data to a predetermined
process in accordance with a characteristic of the
information, before the information is added;

 adding the information to the image data that has
been subjected to the predetermined process; and

 extracting the information from the image data to
10 which the information has been added.

2. The image processing method according to
claim 1, wherein the information is a frequency
component.

3. The image processing method according to
15 claim 1, wherein the predetermined process is a process
for varying a response by frequency.

4. The image processing method according to
claim 1, wherein the predetermined process eliminates,
from frequency characteristics of the image data,
20 a frequency characteristic that is possibly confused
with the information.

5. An image processing method for adding
information to image data, comprising:

25 altering a process for adding the information in
accordance with characteristics of at least one of
output means of the image data and input means of the
image data.

6. The image processing method according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the output means and the input means is selected by selection means, and

5 a process for adding the information is performed in accordance with characteristics of the selected output means or the selected input means.

7. The image processing method according to claim 5, wherein a resolution, and a tone pattern cycle and direction of at least one of the output means and
10 the input means are selected by selection means.

8. The image processing method according to claim 5, further comprising:

printing out a test pattern in advance by output means that is used;

15 reading the test pattern by input means; and altering a process for adding the information in accordance with a result of reading.

9. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the test pattern is a patch or a tone
20 pattern, which includes at least an intermediate level.